

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 00483 101029Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----104710 101041Z /10

O 100943Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 166
INFO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
JCS
CINCPAC
CINCPACAF
CINCPACFLT
CINCPACREPPHIL
CG 13 AF CLARK AB

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 483

EXDIS - MILITARY HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, RP
SUBJECT: PHILIPPINE BASE NEGOTIATIONS

1. SUMMARY: DURING TWO DAYS OF INTENSIVE DISCUSSIONS
PRESIDENT MARCOS STATED FLATLY THAT HE WISHES TO MOVE FORWARD
RAPIDLY WITH AMENDMENT TO BASE AGREEMENT INCORPORATING ELEMENTS
RELATING TO PHILIPPINE SOVEREIGNTY, IF CERTAIN KEY MATTERS
CAN BE RESOLVED, AS INDICATED BELOW. HE SUGGESTS SETTING ASIDE
FOR PRESENT DIFFICULT QUESTION CRIMINAL JURISDICTION. END
SUMMARY.

2. WASHINGTON-CINCPAC TEAM OF ASST. SECRETARY HOLBROOKE,
DEPUTY ASST. SECRETARY ABRAMOWITZ, MIKE ARMOCOST, TOGETHER
WITH ADMIRAL WEISNER AND STAFF JANUARY 10 COMPLETED TWO
DAYS OF INTENSIVE DISCUSSIONS WITH PHILIPINE SIDE HEADED
BY PRESIDENT MARCOS.

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3. ESSENTIALLY CONVERSATIONS REVOLVED AROUND THESE ISSUES:

A. PHILIPPINE RESPONSE TO U.S. PROPOSALS ALREADY
MADE ON PHILIPPINE BASE COMMANDERS, U.S. FACILITIES
DELIMITATION, CRININAL JURISDICTION AND PERIMETER SECURITY:

B. NATURE AND TIME OF AGREEMENT;

- C. RELATIONSHIP OF BASE ISSUE TO COMPENSATION;
- D. TIMING OF REVIEW OF EQUIPMENT REQUEST;
- E. DURATION OF AGREEMENT;
- F. STATUS OF NON-MILITARY INSTALLATIONS.

4. FOLLOWING SOME UNCERTAINTY ON THE FIRST DAY OF TALKS, MARCOS CLEARLY DECIDED HE WISHED TO PUSH FOR EARLY AGREEMENT ON INSTALLATION OF PHILIPPINE BASE COMMANDERS AND ASSERTION OF PHILIPPINE SOVEREIGNTY. TO DO THIS HE MAY BE PREPARED TO SET ASIDE QUESTION OF CRIMINAL JURISDICTION UNTIL LATER PHASE AND TO GO ON BASIS OF "INDICATION" OF COMPENSATION.

5. IN THIS CONNECTION, FOLLOWING ISSUES WERE DECIDED ON THE BASIS OF PREVIOUS U.S. SUBMISSIONS: (A) DELINEATION OF CLARK AIR BASE EXCEPT FOR CROW VALLEY; (B) DELINEATION OF SUBIC BAY EXCEPT OF WATERS, GRANDE ISLAND AND WATERSHED.

6. FOLLOWING ISSUES WERE IDENTIFIED BUT NOT YET RESOLVED (FURTHER DETAILS OF ISSUES WILL BE SENT IN SUBSEQUENT MESSAGES): (A) PART OF SUBIC WATERS INCLUDING GRANDE ISLAND; (B) RESPONSIBILITY FOR WATERSHED MANAGEMENT AT SUBIC; (C) PRECISE DUTIES OF PHILIPPINE BASE COMMANDERS; (D) STATUS OF CROW VALLEY; (E) COMPENSATION TO PHILIPPINES FOR PERIMETER SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS.

7. ON DURATION, AFTER LENGTHY DISCUSSION TWO SIDES REACHED
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AGREEMENT ON FOLLOWING FORMULA: "IN EVERY FIFTH ANNIVERSARY YEAR FROM THE DATE OF THIS MODIFICATION AND UNTIL THE TERMINATION OF THE AGREEMENT THERE SHALL BE BEGUN AND COMPLETED A COMPLETE AND THOROUGH REVIEW AND REASSESSMENT OF THE AGREEMENT INCLUDING ITS OBJECTIVES, ITS PROVISIONS, ITS DURATION, AND THE MANNER OF IMPLEMENTATION TO ASSURE THAT THE AGREEMENT CONTINES TO SERVE THE MUTUAL INTERESTS OF BOTH PARTIES." WE VIEW THIS AS A MAJOR STEP FORWARD, AS IT HAS NOW COMMITTED GOP TO A

CONTINUATION OF MBA UNTIL 1991, WITH FIVE-YEAR REVIEWS. THIS IS FAR BETTER THAN WE EXPECTED FROM PHILS.

8. ON COMPENSATION, IT WAS AGREED THAT THE U.S. WOULD SEEK TO IDENTIFY ITEMS IN THE LIST PROVIDED BY THE PHILIPPINES WHICH WERE CONSISTENT WITH THE EXCHANGE OF PRESIDENTIAL LETTERS AND THAT FOLLOWING CONGRESSIONAL CONSULTATIONS A DOD TEAM WOULD COME TO THE PHILIPPINES TO MAKE A TECHNICAL SURVEY, AT END OF JANUARY OR BEGINNING OF FEBRUARY. AFTER THIS THE TEAM WOULD RETURN AND FOLLOWING FURTHER CONGRESSIONAL CONSULTATIONS THE UNITED STATES WOULD PROVIDE AN INDICATION OF AN ORDER OF MAGNITUDE OF MILITARY (AND POSSIBLE ECONOMIC)

ASSISTANCE WHICH COULD SUBSEQUENTLY BE INCORPORATED IN A
"FULL FAITH" OR "BEST EFFORT" LETTER.

9. WHILE THE AMERICAN SIDE INDICATED DIFFICULTY IN MAKING
FIRM COMMITMENT TO TIMETABLE, WE AGREED THAT U.S. MISSION
IN MANILA WOULD PREPARE PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO MBA TO BE

PRESENTED AND WORKED OUT WITH PHILIPPINE SIDE BY END OF
JANUARY (AMENDED TEXT WILL, OF COURSE, BE REFERRED IN
DRAFTING STAGE TO ALL RELEVANT ADDRESSEES FOR CLEARANCE).
EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO HAVE CONGRESSIONAL CONSULTATION
PROCEED SO THAT DOD TEAM COULD ARRIVE MANILA EARLY
FEBRUARY. IT IS MARCOS' STATED HOPE THAT AGREEMENT IN
WHAT HE CALLS "PHASE A" COULD BE COMPLETED BY EARLY MARCH.
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10. COMMENT: SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS HAS OBVIOUSLY BEEN MADE.
HOWEVER, MARCOS, BY SETTING ASIDE FOR THE PRESENT CRIMINAL
JURISDICTION AND CLEARLY TIEING PROGRESS TO COMPENSATION,
HAS KEPT HIS OPTIONS OPEN FOR DELAY IF HE DESIRES IT.
FOREGOING OUTLINE RELLRES DGTS BASIC ELEMENTS OF EXTENSIVE
CONVERSATIONS DETAILS OF WHICH WILL BE FURNISHED TO PERTI-
NENT COMMANDS.

11. PRESS GUIDANCE AGREED TO WITH PHILIPPINES BEING SENT
IN SEPARATE MESSAGE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MANILA00483
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780014-0586
Format: TEL
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780181/aaaacqia.tel
Line Count: 148
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 95adeae4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3801795
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PHILIPPINE BASE NEGOTIATIONS
TAGS: MARR, RP
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/95adeae4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014